

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A method of driving an electrostatic actuator mechanism including a first stator having an electrode group including at least three electrodes successively arranged in a predetermined direction, voltage being applied to the electrodes ~~in different order~~ respectively, a second stator arranged to face the first stator and having a ~~planar~~ an electrode extending in the predetermined direction, and a movable member arranged between the first stator and the second stator and having a first electrode section facing the electrode group and a second electrode section facing the ~~planar~~ electrode extending in the predetermined direction, the method comprising:

applying voltage to at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group, the potential of ~~any~~ at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group being rendered higher than the potential of the first electrode section;

applying voltage to the ~~planar~~ electrode extending in the predetermined direction, the potential of the ~~planar~~ electrode extending in the predetermined direction being rendered higher than that of the second electrode section;

applying voltage by switching the electrode of the ~~first~~ electrode group such that the potential of the switched electrode is rendered higher than the potential of first electrode section;

applying voltage such that the potential of the ~~planar~~ electrode extending in the predetermined direction is rendered higher than the potential of the second electrode section;
and

repeating the voltage application defined above.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The method of driving an electrostatic actuator mechanism according to claim 14, wherein ~~when~~ voltage is applied simultaneously to ~~the electrode group~~ at least two electrodes forming the electrode group adjacent to each other in the predetermined direction.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The method of driving an electrostatic actuator mechanism according to claim 14, wherein, when voltage is applied to the ~~planar~~ electrode extending in the predetermined direction, a potential difference is imparted such that the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the first electrode group is rendered lower than the potential of the first electrode section.

Claim 17-23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (New): A method of driving an electrostatic actuator mechanism including a first stator having an electrode group including at least three electrodes successively arranged in a predetermined direction, voltage being applied to the electrodes respectively, a second stator arranged to face the first stator and having an electrode extending in the predetermined direction, and a movable member arranged between the first stator and the second stator and having a first electrode section facing the electrode group and a second electrode section facing the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, and a dielectric film formed to cover the first electrode section, the method comprising:

applying voltage to at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group, the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group being rendered higher than the potential of the first electrode section;

applying voltage to the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, the potential of the electrode extending in the predetermined direction being rendered higher than that of the second electrode section;

applying voltage by switching the electrode of the electrode group such that the potential of the switched electrode is rendered higher than the potential of first electrode section;

applying voltage such that the potential of the electrode extending in the predetermined direction is rendered higher than the potential of the second electrode section;

applying voltage to at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group when the voltage is applied to the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, a potential difference being imparted such that the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group is rendered lower than the potential of the first electrode section; and

repeating the voltage application defined above.

Claim 25 (New): The method of driving an electrostatic actuator mechanism according to claim 14, wherein the first and second electrode sections bear substantially the ground potential.

Claim 26 (New): A method of driving an electrostatic actuator mechanism including a first stator having an electrode group including at least three electrodes successively arranged in a predetermined direction, voltage being applied to the electrodes respectively, a second stator arranged to face the first stator and having an electrode extending in the predetermined direction, and a movable member arranged between the first stator and the second stator and having a first electrode section facing the electrode group and a second

electrode section facing the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, and a dielectric film formed to cover the first electrode section, the method comprising:

applying voltage to at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group, the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group being rendered higher than the potential of the first electrode section;

applying voltage to the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, the potential of the electrode extending in the predetermined direction being rendered higher than that of the second electrode section;

applying voltage by switching the electrode of the electrode group such that the potential of the switched electrode is rendered higher than the potential of first electrode section;

applying voltage such that the potential of the electrode extending in the predetermined direction is rendered higher than the potential of the second electrode section;

applying voltage to at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group when the voltage is applied to the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, a potential difference being imparted such that the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group is rendered lower than the potential of the first electrode section; and

repeating the voltage application defined above.

Claim 27 (New): The method of driving an electrostatic actuator mechanism according to claim 24, wherein the first and second electrode sections bear substantially the ground potential.